

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method for independent tool integration in a service control manager (SCM) module, comprising:

creating a tool definition file that defines tools, wherein the tools provide server filesets for installation on a server, the creating step comprising:

assigning the tools to roles by a trusted user via an authorization model associated with the SCM module; and

assigning the roles to a plurality of users via the authorization model, wherein the plurality of users are, depending upon the roles assigned, selectively authorized to execute the tools associated with the roles on the plurality of nodes across a network;

delivering the tool definition file to a directory on the server;

determining if a user is authorized to run the tools on all of the plurality of nodes;

executing a tool command against the tool definition file to integrate the tools; and

delivering software product's tools to managed nodes, the delivering step comprising:

copying or packaging the software product's tools into software depot directories created during software initialization;

providing agent filesets for installation on the managed nodes; and

using software distributor commands to automatically distribute the agent filesets to the managed nodes.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes creating the tool definition file that defines single-system awareness tools.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes creating the tool definition file that defines multi-system awareness tools.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the executing step includes executing the tool command against the tool definition file to add new tools to the tool definition file.

5. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the executing step includes executing the tool command against the tool definition file to modify old tools in the tool definition file.

6-7. (cancelled).

8. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 7, further comprising reinstalling the agent filesets on the managed nodes during update.

9. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 6, wherein the delivering the software product's tools to the managed nodes step includes delivering the software product's tools to node groups.

10. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 6, further comprising delivering a synchronization software in agent configure filesets to facilitate communication between the server and the managed nodes.

11. (original): The method of claim 10, further comprising reinstalling the agent configure filesets into the software depot directories on the server and on the managed nodes during update.

12. (currently amended): An apparatus for independent tool integration in a service control manager (SCM) module, comprising:

a module for creating a tool definition file that defines tools, wherein the tools provide server filesets for installation on a server, the creating module comprising:

roles that are assigned to users and that define which tool the users can run;

and

an authorization model that assigns the roles to the users and authorizes the users to run tools on a plurality of nodes based on the roles assigned to the users, wherein the users are, depending upon the roles assigned, selectively authorized to execute the tools associated with the roles on the plurality of nodes across a network;

a module for delivering the tool definition file to a directory on a server;

a module for determining if a user is authorized to run the tools on all of the plurality of nodes;

a module for executing a tool command against the tool definition file to integrate the tools; and

a module for delivering software product's tools to managed nodes, the module for delivering comprising:

a module for copying or packaging the software product's tools into software depot directories created during software initialization;

agent filesets to be installed on the managed nodes; and

software distributor commands that automatically distribute the agent filesets to the managed nodes.

13. (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the module for executing the tool command adds new tools to the tool definition file.

14. (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the module for executing the tool command modifies old tools in the tool definition file.

15-16. (cancelled).

17. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 12 ~~16~~, further comprising a module for reinstalling the agent filesets on the managed nodes during update.

18. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 12 ~~15~~, further comprising a module for delivering a synchronization software in agent configure filesets to facilitate communication between the server and the managed nodes.

19. (original): The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a module for reinstalling the agent configure filesets into the software depot directories on the server and on the managed nodes during update.

20. (currently amended): A method for independent tool integration in a service control manager (SCM) module, comprising:

creating a tool definition file on a server that defines tools, wherein the tools provide server filesets for installation on a server, the creating step comprising:

assigning the tools to roles by a trusted user via an authorization model associated with the SCM module; and

assigning the roles to a plurality of users via the authorization model, wherein the plurality of users are, depending upon the roles assigned, selectively authorized to execute the tools associated with the roles on the plurality of nodes across a network;

delivering the tool definition file to a directory on the server;

determining if a user is authorized to run the tools on all of the plurality of nodes;

executing a tool command against the tool definition file to add new tools to the tool definition file;

executing the tool command against the tool definition file to modify old tools in the tool definition file; and

delivering software product's tools to software depot directories to be installed on managed nodes using software distributor command; the delivering step comprising:

copying or packaging the software product's tools into software depot directories created during software initialization;

providing agent filesets for installation on the managed nodes; and

using the software distributor commands to automatically distribute the agent filesets to the managed nodes.

21-23. (cancelled).

24. (new): The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically assigning newly created tools to a master role via the authorization model associated with the SCM module, wherein a user having the master role on a plurality of nodes is capable of running all tools on the plurality of nodes across the network.

25. (new): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the module for creating the tool definition file further comprises a master role that is automatically provided access to newly created tools, wherein a user having the master role on a plurality of nodes is capable of running all tools on the plurality of nodes across the network.